GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7687
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2000
DOCTORS IN RURAL AREAS
RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether doctors are reluctant to serve and settle in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide special economic incentives to those doctors who are prepared to settle in such areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) Yes, Sir. There is a shortage of doctors in rural areas of the country.

(b)to(d): The appointments/postings of doctors in the State/Union Territories is the responsibility of the State/Union Territory Government. Therefore, the pay structure as well as the need for economic incentives are decided by them.
However, as per the resolution passed in the Sixth Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare, a minimum 25% of Post-graduate seats were to be considered for in-service medical officers who have put in a minimum service of three years in rural areas with a bond that they will serve Government for minimum five years.
The States were further advised to take steps to fill up vacancies of specialists in Community Health Centres and medical officers in Primary Health Centres by making rural service obligatory for three years.